

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00
FRB-03 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /130 W
-----110763 282203Z /14

R 271832Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8112
INFO DOE GERMANTOWN
ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 14657

USEEC

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA, AS, EEC
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION FAILS TO APPROVE UK-GOA NUCLEAR
SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 11072

1. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN MISSION OFFICER, THE EC
COMMISSION ON JULY 26 IN ITS LAST SESSION BEFORE THE
SUMMER RECESS REFUSED TO APPROVE THE UK-AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR
SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT (REFTEL) ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS
AGREEMENT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE FREE TRADE PROVI-
SIONS OF COMMUNITY LAW. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT AT ITS MEET-
ING OF JULY 19 THE COMMISSION HAD DECIDED IT COULD ACCEPT
THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE SUPERSEDED BY AN EVENTUAL
AUSTRALIAN-EURATOM AGREEMENT, IF THE PARTIES CONCLUDED
AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS PROVIDING ASSURANCES ON FREE
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TRADE. FOR THE REASONS NOTED (PARA 5, REFTEL) THIS WAS
NOT ACCEPTABLE TO AUSTRALIA NOR WERE ALTERNATIVE BRITISH
SUGGESTIONS ON UNILATERAL ASSURANCES BY EURATOM, THE UK
AND AUSTRALIA. THE COMMISSION SAID IT WAS PREPARED TO
CONTINUE DISCUSSION WITH THE UK IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A
SOLUTION. OUR AUSTRALIAN SOURCE COMMENTED THAT HE FELT
THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO WAY THE UK-GOA BILATERAL AGREEMENT

COULD SATISFY BOTH EC FREE TRADE PROVISIONS AND AUSTRALIAN INSISTENCE THAT RETRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS HAVE PRIOR AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT.

2. THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE COMMISSION ACTION, THE BRITISH ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT JULY 27 CRITICAL OF THE COMMISSION FOR NOT PERMITTING THE SCHEDULED SIGNING AND THE GOING INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS INITIALED IN JUNE. THE AUSTRALIANS ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENT.

4. OUR SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS A FRENCH PERMDEL OFFICER TOLD HIM FRANCE WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GOF. THE AUSTRALIANS, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN PUTTING OFF REPEATED FRENCH REQUESTS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT BY INSISTING THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO: BE TEMPORARY TO TAKE RESULTS OF INFCE INTO ACCOUNT; NOT INTERFERE WITH CONCLUSION OF AUSTRALIA/ EURATOM AGREEMENT, AND AWAIT REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UK. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS EXPERIENCE WILL MAKE HIS GOVERNMENT MORE AWARE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON NEGOTIATING A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH EURATOM. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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